

Field Checklist for Stephens Forest- Thousand Acres  
BCA

\* = confirmed or likely area breeder

Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Migratory Species of Greatest  
Conservation Need

Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Nesting Species of Greatest  
Con-  
servation Need

___ Greater White-fronted Goose	___ Spotted Sandpiper
___ Snow Goose	___ <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>
___ Cackling Goose	___ <b>Upland Sandpiper</b>
___ Canada Goose*	___ Least Sandpiper
___ Wood Duck*	___ Pectoral Sandpiper
___ Gadwall	___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
___ Mallard*	___ <b>American Woodcock*</b>
___ Blue-winged Teal	
___ Northern Shoveler	___ Ring-billed Gull
___ <b>Northern Pintail</b>	
___ Green-winged Teal	___ Rock Pigeon*
___ Ring-necked Duck	___ Eurasian Collared-Dove
___ Hooded Merganser*	___ Mourning Dove*
___ Common Merganser	
	___ <b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo*</b>
___ <b>Northern Bobwhite*</b>	___ <b>Black-billed Cuckoo*</b>
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	
___ Wild Turkey*	
	___ <b>Barn Owl*</b>
___ Pied-billed Grebe	___ Eastern Screech-Owl*
	___ Great Horned Owl*
	___ Barred Owl*
___ Double-crested Cormorant	___ <b>Long-eared Owl</b>
___ <b>American White Pelican</b>	___ <b>Common Nighthawk*</b>
	___ <b>Eastern Whip-poor-will*</b>
___ Great Blue Heron*	___ <b>Chimney Swift*</b>
___ Great Egret	
___ Green Heron*	___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
___ Turkey Vulture*	___ Belted Kingfisher*
___ <b>Osprey</b>	___ <b>Red-headed Woodpecker*</b>
___ <b>Bald Eagle*</b>	___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*
___ <b>Northern Harrier*</b>	___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk*	___ Downy Woodpecker*
___ Cooper's Hawk*	___ Hairy Woodpecker*
___ Northern Goshawk	___ Northern Flicker*
___ <b>Red-shouldered Hawk*</b>	___ Pileated Woodpecker*
___ <b>Broad-winged Hawk*</b>	
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	___ American Kestrel*
___ Rough-legged Hawk	
___ Golden Eagle	___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*
	___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
___ American Coot	___ <b>Acadian Flycatcher*</b>
	___ Alder Flycatcher
___ Killdeer*	___ <b>Willow Flycatcher*</b>
	___ <b>Least Flycatcher</b>

___ Eastern Phoebe*	___ European Starling*
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	
___ Eastern Kingbird*	___ Cedar Waxwing*
___ <b>Loggerhead Shrike*</b>	___ Ovenbird*
___ <b>White-eyed Vireo*</b>	___ <b>Worm-eating Warbler</b>
___ <b>Bell's Vireo*</b>	___ <b>Louisiana Waterthrush*</b>
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	___ Northern Waterthrush
___ Blue-headed Vireo	___ <b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>
___ Warbling Vireo*	___ <b>Blue-winged Warbler*</b>
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	___ <b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>
	___ Tennessee Warbler
___ Blue Jay*	___ Orange-crowned Warbler
___ American Crow*	___ Nashville Warbler
	___ Mourning Warbler
___ Horned Lark*	___ <b>Kentucky Warbler*</b>
	___ Common Yellowthroat*
___ Purple Martin*	___ <b>Hooded Warbler</b>
___ Tree Swallow*	___ American Redstart*
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow*	___ <b>Cerulean Warbler*</b>
___ Bank Swallow*	___ Northern Parula*
___ Cliff Swallow*	___ Magnolia Warbler
___ Barn Swallow*	___ Blackburnian Warbler
	___ Yellow Warbler*
___ Black-capped Chickadee*	___ Chestnut-sided Warbler*
___ Tufted Titmouse*	___ Blackpoll Warbler
	___ Palm Warbler
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	___ Yellow-throated Warbler
	___ Black-throated Green Warbler
___ <b>Brown Creeper</b>	___ <b>Canada Warbler</b>
___ Carolina Wren*	___ Wilson's Warbler
___ House Wren*	___ <b>Yellow-breasted Chat*</b>
___ Winter Wren	
___ <b>Sedge Wren*</b>	___ Eastern Towhee*
	___ American Tree Sparrow
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	___ Chipping Sparrow*
	___ Clay-colored Sparrow
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	___ <b>Field Sparrow*</b>
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	___ Vesper Sparrow*
	___ Lark Sparrow*
___ Eastern Bluebird*	___ Savannah Sparrow*
___ <b>Veery*</b>	___ <b>Grasshopper Sparrow*</b>
___ Swainson's Thrush	___ <b>Henslow's Sparrow*</b>
___ <b>Wood Thrush*</b>	___ Fox Sparrow
___ American Robin*	___ Song Sparrow*
	___ Lincoln's Sparrow
___ Gray Catbird*	___ Swamp Sparrow
___ <b>Northern Mockingbird*</b>	___ White-throated Sparrow
___ Brown Thrasher*	___ White-crowned Sparrow
	___ Harris's Sparrow
	___ Dark-eyed Junco

___ Lapland Longspur	___ <b>Eastern Meadowlark*</b>
	___ Western Meadowlark*
___ Summer Tanager*	___ <b>Rusty Blackbird</b>
___ Scarlet Tanager*	___ Common Grackle*
___ Northern Cardinal*	___ Brown-headed Cowbird*
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	___ Orchard Oriole*
___ Blue Grosbeak	___ Baltimore Oriole*
___ Indigo Bunting*	
___ <b>Dickcissel*</b>	___ House Finch*
	___ Purple Finch
___ <b>Bobolink*</b>	___ Pine Siskin
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	___ American Goldfinch*



Yellow-breasted Chat  
Photo by Jay Gilliam

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



1436 255th St.  
Boone, IA 50036  
Phone: (515) 432-2823  
Fax: (515) 432-2835



Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability (mental and/or physical), gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416, or write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Produced by Julia Dale, AmeriCorps, 2014

Stephens Forest-  
Thousand Acres

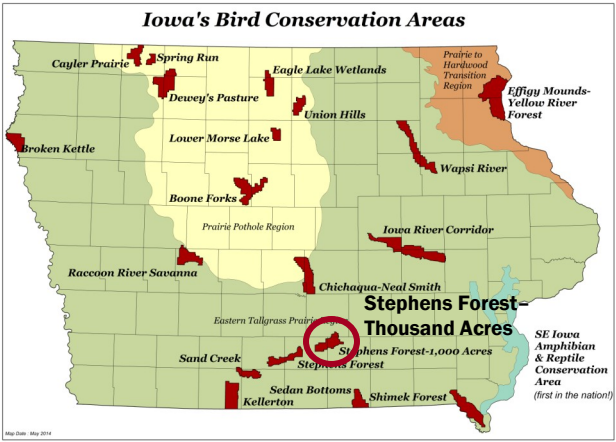
Bird Conservation Area



Photo by Shane Patterson

Lucas, Monroe, and  
Marion Counties





The Stephens Forest - Thousand Acres Bird Conservation Area is located among the rolling hills of south-central Iowa. It is the 19th designated bird conservation area, and the second to include tracts of Stephens State Forest. The Stephens Forest-Thousand Acres BCA includes over 49,000 acres of woodland and grassland habitat throughout the Chariton, Cedar Creek, and Thousand Acres units and surrounding areas. Approximately 18 percent of

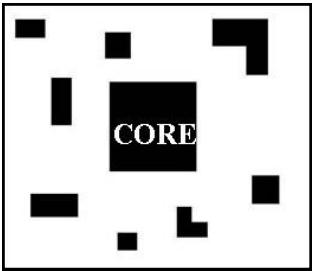


the land area is public land or protected by conservation easements. The BCA provides the opportunity to view over 180 species of birds, both local breeders and long-distance migrants. The forested habitat contained within the BCA is home to numerous Species of Greatest Conservation Need (GCN), including the Red-shouldered Hawk, Whip-poor-will, and Wood Thrush. Numerous neotropical migrants nest in the forest, including warblers like the Louisiana Waterthrush, Cerulean Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The savanna habitat in the BCA provides homes for GCN species like the Barn Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Northern Mockingbird.



## BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

Within the last two decades, alarming declines in a large number of species of North American birds have led to the emergence of national and international programs dedicated to the conservation of game and non-game birds. Since 1999, bird conservation organizations and enthusiasts have worked together under an umbrella called the North American Bird Conservation Initiative to “conserve all birds in all habitats.” As part of this initiative and in an effort to protect dwindling populations of many Iowa birds, the **Bird Conservation Area (BCA)** program was established by the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau in 2001. The present model BCA encompasses at least 10,000 acres of public and/or private lands with approximately 25 percent of the area established as key bird habitat. This concept is backed by research that suggests viable bird populations require conservation efforts at a landscape-oriented level. Each BCA also includes a large “core” area of protected high-quality habitat. Surrounding this core are private lands, plus additional public tracts, all managed to provide good bird habitat.



A BCA Model: shaded areas depict public habitat protected for birds; white is private land

## IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. Designated IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. By working to identify and implement conservation strategies, the IBA Program hopes to minimize the effects of habitat degradation and loss of birds and other wildlife.

## STEPHENS FOREST - THOUSAND ACRES DIVERSITY

### PLANTS

The Stephens Forest-Thousand Acres Bird Conservation Area contains a variety of plant communities, including both upland and bottomland forest, as well as tallgrass prairie. Native trees that can be found in the BCA include several species of Oaks and Hickory, in addition to Cottonwood, Black Walnut and Hackberry. Prairie plants such as Mountain Mint, Compass Plant, Big and Little Bluestem and Purple Prairie Clover abound.



### ANIMALS

The BCA is home to butterflies such as the Zabulon Skipper (a GCN species), Red-spotted Purple, and Summer Azure. SGCN dragonflies in the BCA include the Blue-faced Meadowhawk and Cyrano Darner. Ample habitat for reptiles and amphibians ensure that visitors during the warmer months may encounter Milk Snakes, Prairie Ring-necked Snakes, Spiny Softshell Turtles, and Prairie Kingsnakes. Mammals such as Eastern Chipmunks, Coyotes and the Meadow Jumping Mouse can be found in the BCA.



A list of Iowa’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) can be found at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) by entering “Wildlife Action Plan” in the search. If you encounter uncommon or rare species in this BCA, please contact the Wildlife Diversity Program to report your sightings.

### PARTNERSHIPS

The Stephens Forest—Thousand Acres BCA was created thanks to a partnership between the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Lucas County Conservation Board, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



**Lucas County Conservation Board**